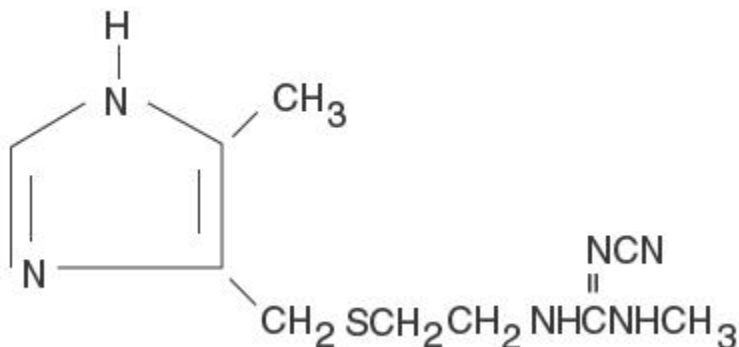


**CIMETIDINE - cimetidine tablet, film coated**  
IVAX Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**DESCRIPTION**

Cimetidine is a histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist. Chemically it is *N*'-cyano-*N*-methyl-*N*'-[2-[[[(5-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)methyl]thio]-ethyl]-guanidine. Its structural formula is:



C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>6</sub>S M.W. 252.34

Cimetidine contains an imidazole ring, and is chemically related to histamine.

Cimetidine has a bitter taste and characteristic odor.

Cimetidine is soluble in alcohol, slightly soluble in water, very slightly soluble in chloroform and insoluble in ether.

Each film-coated tablet, for oral administration, contains 300 mg, 400 mg or 800 mg of cimetidine. In addition, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: corn starch, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, and titanium dioxide.

**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

Cimetidine competitively inhibits the action of histamine at the histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptors of the parietal cells and thus is a histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist.

Cimetidine is not an anticholinergic agent. Studies have shown that cimetidine inhibits both daytime and nocturnal basal gastric acid secretion. Cimetidine also inhibits gastric acid secretion stimulated by food, histamine, pentagastrin, caffeine and insulin.

**Antisecretory Activity**

**1) Acid Secretion**

**Nocturnal**

An 800 mg oral dose of cimetidine at bedtime reduces mean hourly H<sup>+</sup> activity by greater than 85% over an eight-hour period in duodenal ulcer patients, with no effect on daytime acid secretion. A 1600 mg oral dose of cimetidine at bedtime produces 100% inhibition of mean hourly H<sup>+</sup> activity over an eight-hour period in duodenal ulcer patients, but also reduces H<sup>+</sup> activity by 35% for an additional five hours into the following morning. Cimetidine given as 400 mg twice daily and 300 mg four times daily decreases nocturnal acid secretion in a dose-related manner, i.e., 47% to 83% over a six- to eight-hour period and 54% over a nine-hour period, respectively.

**Food Stimulated**

During the first hour after a standard experimental meal, a 300 mg oral dose of cimetidine inhibited gastric acid secretion in duodenal ulcer patients by at least 50%. During the subsequent two hours cimetidine inhibited gastric acid secretion by at least 75%.

The effect of a 300 mg breakfast dose of cimetidine continued for at least four hours and there was partial suppression of the rise in gastric acid secretion following the luncheon meal in duodenal ulcer patients. This suppression of gastric acid output was enhanced and could be maintained by another 300 mg dose of cimetidine given with lunch.

In another study, a 300 mg dose of cimetidine given with the meal increased gastric pH as compared with placebo.

**Mean Gastric pH**

	<b>Cimetidine</b>	<b>Placebo</b>
1 hour	3.5	2.6
2 hours	3.1	1.6
3 hours	3.8	1.9

4 hours	6.1	2.2
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#### 24-Hour Mean H<sup>+</sup> Activity

Cimetidine dosed at 800 mg at bedtime, 400 mg twice daily, and 300 mg four times daily, all provide a similar, moderate (less than 60%) level of 24-hour acid suppression. However, the 800 mg bedtime dose regimen exerts its entire effect on nocturnal acid, and does not affect daytime gastric physiology.

#### Chemically Stimulated

Cimetidine administered orally significantly inhibited gastric acid secretion stimulated by betazole (an isomer of histamine), pentagastrin, caffeine and insulin as follows:

#### Cimetidine Inhibition of Stimulated Gastric Acid Secretion

Stimulant	Stimulant Dose	Cimetidine	% Inhibition
Betazole	1.5 mg/kg (sc)	300 mg (po)	85% at 2 ½ hours
Pentagastrin	6 mcg/kg/hr (iv)	100 mg/hr (iv)	60% at 1 hour
Caffeine	5 mg/kg/hr (iv)	300 mg (po)	100% at 1 hour
Insulin	0.03 units/kg/hr (iv)	100 mg/hr (iv)	82% at 1 hour

When food and betazole were used to stimulate secretion, inhibition of hydrogen ion concentration usually ranged from 45% to 75% and the inhibition of volume ranged from 30% to 65%.

#### 2) Pepsin

300 mg of cimetidine taken orally reduced total pepsin output as a result of the decrease in volume of gastric juice.

#### 3) Intrinsic Factor

Intrinsic factor secretion was studied with betazole as a stimulant. Cimetidine dosed at 300 mg orally inhibited the rise in intrinsic factor concentration produced by betazole, but some intrinsic factor was secreted at all times.

#### Other

#### Lower Esophageal Sphincter Pressure and Gastric Emptying

Cimetidine has no effect on lower esophageal sphincter (LES) pressure or the rate of gastric emptying.

#### Pharmacokinetics

Cimetidine is rapidly absorbed after oral administration and peak levels occur in 45 to 90 minutes. The half-life of cimetidine is approximately 2 hours. Blood concentrations remain above that required to provide 80% inhibition of basal gastric acid secretion for 4 to 5 hours following a dose of 300 mg.

The principal route of excretion of cimetidine is the urine. Following oral administration, the drug is more extensively metabolized, the sulfoxide being the major metabolite. Following a single oral dose, 48% of the drug is recovered from the urine after 24 hours as the parent compound.

#### Clinical Trials

##### Duodenal Ulcer

Cimetidine has been shown to be effective in the treatment of active duodenal ulcer and, at reduced dosage, in maintenance therapy following healing of active ulcers.

##### Active Duodenal Ulcer

Cimetidine accelerates the rate of duodenal ulcer healing. Healing rates reported in U.S. and foreign controlled trials with cimetidine are summarized below, beginning with the regimen providing the lowest nocturnal dose.

#### Duodenal Ulcer Healing Rates with Various Dosage Regimens of Cimetidine \*

Regimen	300 mg 4 times daily	400 mg twice daily	800 mg at bedtime	1600 mg at bedtime
week 4	68%	73%	80%	86%
week 6	80%	80%	89%	-
week 8	-	92%	94%	-

\* Averages from controlled clinical trials.

A U.S. double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-ranging study demonstrated that all once-daily at bedtime regimens of cimetidine were superior to placebo in ulcer healing and that 800 mg of cimetidine at bedtime healed 75% of patients at four weeks. The healing rate with 800 mg at bedtime was significantly superior to 400 mg at bedtime (66%) and not significantly different from 1600 mg at bedtime. (81%).

In the U.S. dose-ranging trial, over 80% of patients receiving 800 mg of cimetidine at bedtime experienced nocturnal pain relief after one day. Relief from daytime pain was reported in approximately 70% of patients after two days. As with ulcer healing, the 800 mg dose at bedtime was superior to 400 mg at bedtime and not different from 1600 mg at bedtime.

In foreign, double-blind studies with 800 mg of cimetidine at bedtime, 79% to 85% of patients were healed at four weeks.

While short-term treatment with cimetidine can result in complete healing of the duodenal ulcer, acute therapy will not prevent ulcer recurrence after cimetidine has been discontinued. Some follow-up studies have reported that the rate of recurrence once therapy was discontinued was slightly higher for patients healed on cimetidine than for patients healed on other forms of therapy; however, the patients treated with cimetidine generally had more severe disease.

#### Maintenance Therapy in Duodenal Ulcer

Treatment with a reduced dose of cimetidine has been proven effective as maintenance therapy following healing of active duodenal ulcers.

In numerous placebo-controlled studies conducted worldwide, the percent of patients with observed ulcers at the end of one year's therapy with 400 mg of cimetidine at bedtime was significantly lower (10% to 45%) than in patients receiving placebo (44% to 70%). Thus, from 55% to 90% of patients were maintained free of observed ulcers at the end of one year with 400 mg of cimetidine at bedtime.

Factors such as smoking, duration and severity of disease, gender, and genetic traits may contribute to variations in actual percentages.

Trials of other anti-ulcer therapy, whether placebo-controlled, positive-controlled or open, have demonstrated a range of results similar to that seen with cimetidine.

#### Active Benign Gastric Ulcer

Cimetidine has been shown to be effective in the short-term treatment of active benign gastric ulcer.

In a multicenter, double-blind U.S. study, patients with endoscopically confirmed benign gastric ulcer were treated with 300 mg of cimetidine four times a day or with placebo for six weeks. Patients were limited to those with ulcers ranging from 0.5 to 2.5 cm in size. Endoscopically confirmed healing at six weeks was seen in significantly \* more patients treated with cimetidine than in patients receiving placebo, as shown below:

#### Rate of Endoscopically Confirmed Gastric Ulcer Healing

	<b>Cimetidine (300 mg, 4 times daily)</b>	<b>Placebo</b>
Week 2	14/63 (22%)	7/63 (11%)
Total at week 6	43/65 (66%)*	30/67 (45%)
* p < 0.05		

In a similar multicenter U.S. study of the 800 mg bedtime oral regimen, the endoscopically confirmed healing rates were:

#### Rate of Endoscopically Confirmed Gastric Ulcer Healing

	<b>Cimetidine (800 mg at bedtime)</b>	<b>Placebo</b>
Total at week 6	63/83(76%)*	44/80 (55%)
* p = 0.005		

Similarly, in worldwide double-blind clinical studies, endoscopically evaluated benign gastric ulcer healing rates were consistently higher with cimetidine than with placebo.

#### Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

In two multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies in patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and endoscopically proven erosions and/or ulcers, cimetidine was significantly more effective than placebo in healing lesions. The endoscopically confirmed healing rates were:

#### Rate of Endoscopically Confirmed Healing of Erosions and/or Ulcers

Trial		<b>Cimetidine</b> (800 mg twice daily)	<b>Cimetidine</b> (400 mg 4 times daily)	<b>Placebo</b>	<b>p-Value</b> (800 mg twice daily vs. placebo)
1	Week 6	45%	52%	26%	0.02
	Week 12	60%	66%	42%	0.02
2	Week 6	50%		20%	<0.01
	Week 12	67%		36%	<0.01

In these trials cimetidine was superior to placebo by most measures in improving symptoms of day- and night-time heartburn, with many of the differences statistically significant. The 4 times daily regimen was generally somewhat better than the twice daily regimen where these were compared.

#### Pathological Hypersecretory Conditions (such as Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome)

Cimetidine significantly inhibited gastric acid secretion and reduced occurrence of diarrhea, anorexia and pain in patients with pathological hypersecretion associated with Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, systemic mastocytosis and multiple endocrine adenomas. Use of cimetidine was also followed by healing of intractable ulcers.

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Cimetidine tablets are indicated in:

- 1) Short-term treatment of active duodenal ulcer.** Most patients heal within 4 weeks and there is rarely reason to use cimetidine at full dosage for longer than 6 to 8 weeks (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Duodenal Ulcer**). Concomitant antacids should be given as needed for relief of pain. However, simultaneous administration of oral cimetidine and antacids is not recommended, since antacids have been reported to interfere with the absorption of oral cimetidine.
- 2) Maintenance therapy for duodenal ulcer patients at reduced dosage after healing of active ulcer.** Patients have been maintained on continued treatment with cimetidine 400 mg at bedtime for periods of up to five years.
- 3) Short-term treatment of active benign gastric ulcer.** There is no information concerning usefulness of treatment periods of longer than eight weeks.
- 4) Erosive gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).** Erosive esophagitis diagnosed by endoscopy. Treatment is indicated for twelve weeks for healing of lesions and control of symptoms. The use of cimetidine beyond twelve weeks has not been established (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, GERD**).
- 5) The treatment of pathological hypersecretory conditions** (i.e., Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, systemic mastocytosis, multiple endocrine adenomas).

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Cimetidine is contraindicated for patients known to have hypersensitivity to the product.

### PRECAUTIONS

#### General

Rare instances of cardiac arrhythmias and hypotension have been reported following the rapid administration of cimetidine hydrochloride injection by intravenous bolus.

Symptomatic response to treatment with cimetidine does not preclude the presence of a gastric malignancy. There have been rare reports of transient healing of gastric ulcers despite subsequently documented malignancy.

Reversible confusional states (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**) have been observed on occasion, predominantly, but not exclusively, in severely ill patients. Advancing age (50 or more years) and preexisting liver and/or renal disease appear to be contributing factors. In some patients these confusional states have been mild and have not required discontinuation of cimetidine. In cases where discontinuation was judged necessary, the condition usually cleared within 3 to 4 days of drug withdrawal.

#### Drug Interactions

Cimetidine, apparently through an effect on certain microsomal enzyme systems, has been reported to reduce the hepatic metabolism of warfarin-type anticoagulants, phenytoin, propranolol, nifedipine, chlorthalidone, diazepam, certain tricyclic antidepressants, lidocaine, theophylline and metronidazole, thereby delaying elimination and increasing blood levels of these drugs.

Clinically significant effects have been reported with the warfarin anticoagulants; therefore, close monitoring of prothrombin time is recommended, and adjustment of the anticoagulant dose may be necessary when cimetidine is administered concomitantly. Interaction with phenytoin, lidocaine and theophylline has also been reported to produce adverse clinical effects.

However, a crossover study in healthy subjects receiving either 300 mg four times daily or 800 mg at bedtime of cimetidine concomitantly with a 300 mg twice daily dosage of theophylline (Theo-Dur®<sup>\*1</sup>) demonstrated less alteration in steady-state theophylline peak serum levels with the 800 mg at bedtime regimen, particularly in subjects aged 54 years and older. Data beyond ten

days are not available. (Note: All patients receiving theophylline should be monitored appropriately, regardless of concomitant drug therapy.)

Dosage of the drugs mentioned above and other similarly metabolized drugs, particularly those of low therapeutic ratio or in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment, may require adjustment when starting or stopping the concomitant administration of cimetidine to maintain optimum therapeutic blood levels.

Alteration of pH may affect the absorption of certain drugs (e.g., ketoconazole). If these products are needed, they should be given at least 2 hours before cimetidine administration.

Additional clinical experience may reveal other drugs affected by the concomitant administration of cimetidine.

### **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility**

In a 24-month toxicity study conducted in rats, at dose levels of 150, 378 and 950 mg/kg/day (approximately 8 to 48 times the recommended human dose), there was a small increase in the incidence of benign Leydig cell tumors in each dose group; when the combined drug-treated groups and control groups were compared, this increase reached statistical significance. In a subsequent 24-month study, there were no differences between the rats receiving 150 mg/kg/day and the untreated controls. However, a statistically significant increase in benign Leydig cell tumor incidence was seen in the rats that received 378 and 950 mg/kg/day. These tumors were common in control groups as well as treated groups and the difference became apparent only in aged rats.

Cimetidine has demonstrated a weak antiandrogenic effect. In animal studies this was manifested as reduced prostate and seminal vesicle weights. However, there was no impairment of mating performance or fertility, nor any harm to the fetus in these animals at doses 8 to 48 times the full therapeutic dose of cimetidine, as compared with controls. The cases of gynecomastia seen in patients treated for one month or longer may be related to this effect.

In human studies, cimetidine has been shown to have no effect on spermatogenesis, sperm count, motility, morphology or *in vitro* fertilizing capacity.

### **Pregnancy**

#### **Teratogenic Effects**

#### **Pregnancy Category B**

Reproduction studies have been performed in rats, rabbits and mice at doses up to 40 times the normal human dose and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to cimetidine. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproductive studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

### **Nursing Mothers**

Cimetidine is secreted in human milk and, as a general rule, nursing should not be undertaken while a patient is on a drug.

### **Pediatric Use**

Clinical experience in pediatric patients is limited. Therefore, therapy with cimetidine cannot be recommended for pediatric patients under 16, unless, in the judgement of the physician, anticipated benefits outweigh the potential risks. In very limited experience, doses of 20 to 40 mg/kg/day have been used.

### **Immunocompromised Patients**

In immunocompromised patients, decreased gastric acidity, including that produced by acid-suppressing agents such as cimetidine, may increase the possibility of a hyperinfection of strongyloidiasis.

## **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Adverse effects reported in patients taking cimetidine are described below by body system. Incidence figures of 1 in 100 and greater are generally derived from controlled clinical studies.

### **Gastrointestinal**

Diarrhea (usually mild) has been reported in approximately 1 in 100 patients.

### **CNS**

Headaches, ranging from mild to severe, have been reported in 3.5% of 924 patients taking 1600 mg/day, 2.1% of 2,225 patients taking 800 mg/day and 2.3% of 1,897 patients taking placebo. Dizziness and somnolence (usually mild) have been reported in approximately 1 in 100 patients on either 1600 mg/day or 800 mg/day.

Reversible confusional states, e.g., mental confusion, agitation, psychosis, depression, anxiety, hallucinations, disorientation, have been reported predominantly, but not exclusively, in severely ill patients. They have usually developed within 2 to 3 days of initiation of treatment with cimetidine and have cleared within 3 to 4 days of discontinuation of the drug.

## **Endocrine**

Gynecomastia has been reported in patients treated for one month or longer. In patients being treated for pathological hypersecretory states, this occurred in about 4% of cases while in all others the incidence was 0.3% to 1% in various studies. No evidence of induced endocrine dysfunction was found, and the condition remained unchanged or returned toward normal with continuing treatment with cimetidine.

Reversible impotence has been reported in patients with pathological hypersecretory disorders, e.g., Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, receiving cimetidine, particularly in high doses, for at least 12 months (range 12 to 79 months, mean 38 months). However, in large-scale surveillance studies at regular dosage, the incidence has not exceeded that commonly reported in the general population.

## **Hematologic**

Decreased white blood cell counts in patients treated with cimetidine (approximately 1 per 100,000 patients), including agranulocytosis (approximately 3 per million patients), have been reported, including a few reports of recurrence on rechallenge. Most of these reports were in patients who had serious concomitant illnesses and received drugs and/or treatment known to produce neutropenia. Thrombocytopenia (approximately 3 per million patients) and, very rarely, cases of pancytopenia or aplastic anemia have also been reported. As with some other H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists, there have been extremely rare reports of immune hemolytic anemia.

## **Hepatobiliary**

Dose-related increases in serum transaminase have been reported. In most cases they did not progress with continued therapy and returned to normal at the end of therapy. There have been rare reports of cholestatic or mixed cholestatic-hepatocellular effects. These were usually reversible. Because of the predominance of cholestatic features, severe parenchymal injury is considered highly unlikely. However, as in the occasional liver injury with other H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists, in exceedingly rare circumstances fatal outcomes have been reported.

There has been reported a single case of biopsy-proven periportal hepatic fibrosis in a patient receiving cimetidine.

Rare cases of pancreatitis, which cleared on withdrawal of the drug, have been reported.

## **Hypersensitivity**

Rare cases of fever and allergic reactions including anaphylaxis and hypersensitivity vasculitis, which cleared on withdrawal of the drug, have been reported.

## **Renal**

Small, possibly dose-related increases in plasma creatinine, presumably due to competition for renal tubular secretion, are not uncommon and do not signify deteriorating renal function. Rare cases of interstitial nephritis and urinary retention, which cleared on withdrawal of the drug, have been reported.

## **Cardiovascular**

Rare cases of bradycardia, tachycardia and AV heart block have been reported with H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists.

## **Musculoskeletal**

There have been rare reports of reversible arthralgia and myalgia; exacerbation of joint symptoms in patients with preexisting arthritis has also been reported. Such symptoms have usually been alleviated by a reduction in the dosage of cimetidine. Rare cases of polymyositis have been reported, but no causal relationship has been established.

## **Integumental**

Mild rash and, very rarely, cases of severe generalized skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme, exfoliative dermatitis and generalized exfoliative erythroderma have been reported with H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists. Reversible alopecia has been reported very rarely.

## **Immune function**

There have been extremely rare reports of strongyloidiasis hyperinfection in immunocompromised patients.

## **OVERDOSAGE**

Studies in animals indicate that toxic doses are associated with respiratory failure and tachycardia that may be controlled by assisted respiration and the administration of a beta-blocker.

Reported acute ingestions orally of up to 20 grams have been associated with transient adverse effects similar to those encountered in normal clinical experience. The usual measures to remove unabsorbed material from the gastrointestinal tract, clinical monitoring, and supportive therapy should be employed.

There have been reports of severe CNS symptoms, including unresponsiveness, following ingestion of between 20 and 40 grams of cimetidine, and extremely rare reports following concomitant use of multiple CNS-active medications and ingestion of cimetidine at doses less than 20 grams. An elderly, terminally ill dehydrated patient with organic brain syndrome receiving concomitant antipsychotic agents and 4800 mg of cimetidine intravenously over a 24-hour period experienced mental deterioration with reversal on discontinuation.

There have been two deaths in adults who were reported to have ingested over 40 grams orally on a single occasion of cimetidine.

## **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Duodenal Ulcer**

#### **Active Duodenal Ulcer**

Clinical studies have indicated that suppression of nocturnal acid is the most important factor in duodenal ulcer healing (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Antisecretory Activity, Acid Secretion**). This is supported by recent clinical trials (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Trials, Active Duodenal Ulcer**). Therefore, there is no apparent rationale, except for familiarity with use, for treating with anything other than a once-daily at bedtime dosage regimen.

In a U.S. oral dose-ranging study of 400 mg at bedtime, 800 mg at bedtime and 1600 mg at bedtime, a continuous dose response relationship for ulcer healing was demonstrated.

However, 800 mg at bedtime is the dose of choice for most patients, as it provides a high healing rate (the difference between 800 mg at bedtime and 1600 mg at bedtime being small), maximal pain relief, a decreased potential for drug interactions (see **PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions**) and maximal patient convenience. Patients unhealed at four weeks, or those with persistent symptoms, have been shown to benefit from two to four weeks of continued therapy.

It has been shown that patients who both have an endoscopically demonstrated ulcer larger than 1 cm and are also heavy smokers (i.e., smoke one pack of cigarettes or more per day) are more difficult to heal. There is some evidence which suggests that more rapid healing can be achieved in this subpopulation with 1600 mg of cimetidine at bedtime. While early pain relief with either 800 mg at bedtime or 1600 mg at bedtime is equivalent in all patients, 1600 mg at bedtime provides an appropriate alternative when it is important to ensure healing within four weeks for this subpopulation. Alternatively, approximately 94% of all patients will also heal in eight weeks with 800 mg of cimetidine at bedtime.

Other regimens of cimetidine in the United States which have been shown to be effective are: 300 mg four times daily, with meals and at bedtime, the original regimen with which U.S. physicians have the most experience, and 400 mg twice daily, in the morning and at bedtime (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Trials, Active Duodenal Ulcer**).

Concomitant antacids should be given as needed for relief of pain. However, simultaneous administration of cimetidine and antacids is not recommended, since antacids have been reported to interfere with the absorption of cimetidine.

While healing with cimetidine often occurs during the first week or two, treatment should be continued for 4 to 6 weeks unless healing has been demonstrated by endoscopic examination.

#### **Maintenance Therapy for Duodenal Ulcer**

In those patients requiring maintenance therapy, the recommended adult oral dose is 400 mg at bedtime.

### **Active Benign Gastric Ulcer**

The recommended adult oral dosage for short-term treatment of active benign gastric ulcer is 800 mg at bedtime, or 300 mg four times a day with meals and at bedtime. Controlled clinical studies were limited to six weeks of treatment (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Trials**). A dose of 800 mg at bedtime is the preferred regimen for most patients based upon convenience and reduced potential for drug interactions. Symptomatic response to cimetidine does not preclude the presence of a gastric malignancy. It is important to follow gastric ulcer patients to assure rapid progress to complete healing.

### **Erosive Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)**

The recommended adult oral dosage for the treatment of erosive esophagitis that has been diagnosed by endoscopy is 1600 mg daily in divided doses (800 mg twice daily or 400 mg four times daily) for 12 weeks. The use of cimetidine beyond 12 weeks has not been established.

### **Pathological Hypersecretory Conditions (such as Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome)**

Recommended adult oral dosage: 300 mg four times a day with meals and at bedtime. In some patients it may be necessary to administer higher doses more frequently. Doses should be adjusted to individual patient needs, but should not usually exceed 2400 mg per day and should continue as long as clinically indicated.

### **Dosage Adjustment for Patients with Impaired Renal Function**

Patients with severely impaired renal function have been treated with cimetidine. However, such usage has been very limited. On the basis of this experience the recommended dosage is 300 mg every 12 hours orally. Should the patient's condition require, the frequency of dosing may be increased to every 8 hours or even further with caution. In severe renal failure, accumulation may occur and the lowest frequency of dosing compatible with an adequate patient response should be used. When liver impairment is also

present, further reductions in dosage may be necessary. Hemodialysis reduces the level of circulating cimetidine. Ideally, the dosage schedule should be adjusted so that the timing of a scheduled dose coincides with the end of hemodialysis.

#### **HOW SUPPLIED**

Cimetidine Tablets USP are available as 300 mg white to off-white, round, unscored, film-coated tablets, debossed 300 on one side and 7117 on the other side, packaged in bottles of 100, 500 and 1000 tablets.

Cimetidine Tablets USP are available as 400 mg white to off-white, capsule-shaped, scored, film-coated tablets, debossed 400 on one side and 7171 on the other side, packaged in bottles of 60, 100 and 500 tablets.

Cimetidine Tablets USP are available as 800 mg white to off-white, oval-shaped, scored, film-coated tablets, debossed 800 on one side and 7711 on the other side, packaged in bottles of 30, 100 and 500 tablets.

PHARMACIST: Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container as defined in the USP. Use child-resistant closure (as required).

Store at 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

MANUFACTURED FOR

IVAX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

MIAMI, FL 33137

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**1**\*Theo-Dur® is a registered trademark of Key Pharmaceuticals, Inc.